GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1095
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2008
DOCTOR-PATIENT RATIO
Subbarayan Shri K.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the doctor-patient ratio is consistent with the international standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (c): The doctor-patient ration varies from case to case depending upon various factors like the type of disease, nature of specialization, type of patient-care required i.e. indoor/ outdoor. As per Medical Council of India, the total number of registered allopathic doctors in the country is 6, 83, 582. Thus, the allopathic doctor-population ratio works out to 1:1634. In addition, there are more than 6 lakhs practitioners of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy in the country. Taking all these numbers together, the doctor-population ratio comes to 1:870. There are 271 medical colleges in the country with annual intake of 31,172 students who add up to the existing medical manpower. The National Rural Health Mission has been operationalised with the main aim of providing accessible and reliable primary health care facilities especially to the poor and the vulnerable sections of the population.